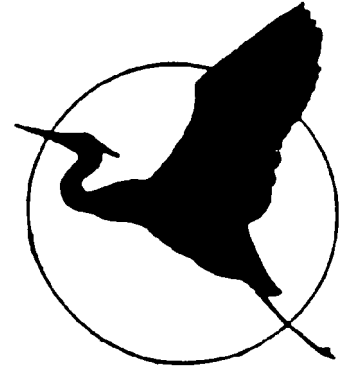


Haw River Assembly

P.O. Box 187 Bynum, NC 27228

(919) 542-5790 hra@emji.net



July 17, 2007

Rich Gannon

DENR-DWQ, Planning Section

1617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1617

My name is Catherine Deininger and I am a resident of Chatham County. I also am the coordinator for the Haw River Assembly's Stream Stewardship Campaign that works with individuals and communities to reduce non-point source pollution to the creeks and rivers in their neighborhoods. I support the proposed Water Supply Nutrient Strategy for Jordan Lake.

In my work with the Haw River Assembly, I have concentrated on promoting stream stewardship in communities with threatened or impaired streams. The state defines impaired waters as one that is not supporting one or more of its uses with the basic use of all streams being recreation. In the Jordan Lake watershed over 25 sections of streams have been determined by the State as not meeting their prescribed uses. I am someone who though my work is in and around streams on an almost daily basis and in my opinion there are unfortunately many streams in the Jordan Lake watershed that are not on the impaired stream list that are not safe to be in. These are streams that often being polluted by failing septic systems, broken sewer line, golf courses, old outdated farming practices, and general urban stormwater runoff. I suggest to the State and other stakeholders in this process that you keep in mind that by passing rules to protect and restore Jordan Lake, the State will protect and potentially restore many more streams than just Jordan Lake. I hope that in the near future everyone in the Jordan Lake watershed will again be able to enjoy playing in the streams in their own backyards as well as enjoy Jordan Lake both as source of good drinking water and a place for safe recreation.

I ask that the new rules be passed now with no further delays with two exceptions. First the earlier version of these proposed rules called for reductions in nitrogen from wastewater treatment plants by 2011. The 2011 deadline needs to be reinstated. Jordan Lake simply cannot wait until 2016 for reductions in nitrogen from wastewater. 10 big municipal and county wastewater treatment plants and 55 smaller facilities discharge their treated effluent into creeks that flow to Jordan Lake. During droughts it is estimated that up to 90% of the water flowing into Jordan lake has been through a treatment plant at least once, and the concentration of nutrients is at its highest. If we expect to continue to be able to use what is basically reuse water as a water supply, we need to make reductions to all pollutants as soon as possible.

And secondly, considering that the lake is already impaired, a vital part of the new Jordan Lake rules has to be retrofitting existing development with new stormwater controls. The

requirements for local government to control runoff from existing developments has to be strong with clear well laid out steps on how stormwater runoff will be reduced. Working on retrofitting existing communities has the added benefit that it opens the door to community building and education. In order for new stormwater controls to be installed in existing developments, current landowners will need to be approached and educated on the need to reduce stormwater runoff. Polluted stormwater runoff is the number one threat to water quality in North Carolina today and since stormwater runoff happens in all our backyards it cannot be successfully dealt with without public involvement and endorsement. I know from personal experience that this is a hard nut to crack, but we cannot successfully reduce stormwater runoff that is polluting the Jordan Lake watershed by concentrating on new development when Jordan Lake is already impaired today.

Sincerely,

Catherine Deininger
Stream Steward Project Coordinator
Haw River Assembly
deininger@hawriver.org